

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149600 TOSEC 070005

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 1175 ACTION SECSTATE USUN NEW YORK
BRUSSELS PARIS INFO BONN GABORONE DAR ES SALAAM LIBREVILLE
LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO OTTAWA PRETORIA JUNE 13.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1175

BRUSSELS FOR ASST. SECY MOOSE

DEPT PASS FOR SECDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, WA, PORG

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING WITH BOTHA JUNE 13

REFS: USUN 2412, USUN 2415

THE FOLLOWING IS THE AGREED REPORT OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE
ON THEIR MEETING TODAY, JUNE 13, WITH BOTHA TO PROVIDE
HIM A REPORT OF THE FRONTLINE SUMMIT IN LUANDA.

1. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA, FOURIE
AND VAN HEERDEN AT 2:30PM FOR APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES ON
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JUNE 13. WE PRESENTED THE AGREED TALKING POINTS AND GAVE
BOTHA A COPY OF THE LUANDA COMMUNIQUE.

2. BOTHA'S REACTION TO THE POINT ABOUT WALVIS BAY WAS
THAT WALVIS BAY BELONGS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SAG COULD
NOT EVEN CONSIDER THE SWAPO POSITION BEFORE OR AFTER THE
TRANSITION.

3. BOTHA SAID THE SAG WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER SWAPO'S DEMAND FOR THE RELOCATION OF TROOPS. HE COULD NOT SEE THAT IT MATTERED WHERE THE TROOPS ARE LOCATED IF THERE IS TO BE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND A REDUCTION OF FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO US WITH DEMANDS THAT SWAPO WITHDRAW 400 MILES TO THE NORTH, ALTHOUGH THIS POINT HAD BEEN RAISED ON 3 DECEMBER. HE ASKED WHETHER THE FIVE WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION IF HE URGED US TO REPORT THAT SWAPO IS PREPARED TO INVADE SOUTH WEST AFRICA, TO WHICH WE RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD REPORT HIS STATEMENT TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVTS. HE SAID THAT IF SWAPO DID INVADE THEY WOULD HIT BACK VERY VERY HARD.

4. FOURIE SAID THAT BY URGING THE SAG TO TAKE NO ACTION TO DISTURB THE SUPPORT OF THE FRONTLINE STATES AND SWAPO FOR "THE SETTLEMENT", WE SEEMED IMPLICITLY TO BE ENDORSING THE SWAPO POSITION. THE FIVE REJECTED THIS INTERPRETATION, NOTING THAT OUR URGING THEM TO TAKE NO UNILATERAL ACTION WW RELATED TO OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SUCH ACTION ON THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT OF THE SWAPO POSITION.

5. BOTHA STATED THAT THE SAG DID NOT REGARD THE REGISTRATION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF VOTERS AS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIVE'S PROPOSALS. IT WAS PURELY AN ADMINISTRATIVE TASK WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS. SHOULD THE PROPOSALS BE ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BOTHA SAID HE WAS SURE THE FIVE WOULD BE GLAD THAT THIS PRELIMINARY WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DELAYS. WE REPLIED THAT ANY PUBLIC APPEAL FOR THE REGISTRATION WOULD BE REGARDED AS A HARMFUL UNILATERAL ACTION ENGAGING SOUTH AFRICA IN A PROCESS OF ITS OWN. HE REPLIED THAT REGISTRATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN VIEW DID NOT JEOPARDIZE THE AGREEMENT. IF IT HAD BEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT THEY WOULD HAVE TOLD US.

6. BOTHA AND FOURIE ASKED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SWAPO. FOURIE ARGUED THAT SWAPO WAS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS AND THAT THE PROCESS WOULD GO ON INDEFINITELY. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY SPECIFIC INFO ON THE LIKELY TIME-TABLE FOR FURTHER TALKS BEYOND THE MEETING OF OUR MINISTERS TOMORROW, BUT WE HOPED THERE WOULD BE EARLY TALKS WITH SWAPO.

7. AS WE WERE LEAVING BOTHA NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE SAG TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO THE LUANDA COMMUNIQUE.

CAPE TOWN FIVE COMMENT:

8. WHILE BOTHA REACTED FIRMLY ON BOTH MAJOR POINTS OF OUR PRESENTATION, HIS MANNER WAS RELATIVELY MILD AND BUSINESSLIKE. THERE WAS NO BLUSTERING, BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SAG WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY CHANGES IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE FIVE'S PROPOSALS. BOTHA AND FOURIE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE FIVE WOULD BE NEGOTIATING WITH SWAPO ON THE BASIS OF SWAPO'S DEMANDS OR ON THE BASIS OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE'S PROPOSALS, INDICATING CONCERN THAT WE MIGHT BE RETURNING TO ASK THEM FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS ON THESE POINTS. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE SIMPLY CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTING TO HIM ON THE RESULTS OF THE LUANDA SUMMIT AND THAT ANY FURTHER TALKS WE HELD WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE'S PROPOSALS.

9. GIVEN THE CONCERN THEY HAVE FOR SECURITY AND THE PUBLIC POSITION THEY HAVE TAKEN ON THIS ISSUE, IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT A LOCATION OF TROOPS SOUTH OF WINDHOEK. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE FROM THIS CONVERSATION, WE SUSPECT THAT THEIR POSITION ON WALVIS BAY HAS NOT CHANGED. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE STILL PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE THE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY WITH AN INDEPENDENT GOVT BUT THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO HAVE THIS RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS.
EDMONDSON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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